



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD

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RI Independence Day Ceremonies Slated

Historical Militia Encampment at Camp Fogarty will be Venue for RI Independence Day Observation Saturday

CRANSTON, RI – Major General Robert T. Bray, Adjutant General of Rhode Island and Commanding General of the Rhode Island National Guard, announced today that the Rhode Island's historical militia units will participate in their annual encampment this weekend at Camp Fogarty, 2841 south county Trail (Route 2), East Greenwich.

The Public and Media are invited to a formal military ceremony on Saturday at 2 PM where the traditional observation of the 233rd commemoration of Rhode Island Independence Day will be highlighted with the reading of the proclamation by Attorney General Patrick Lynch, and the firing of a 13 cannon salute by the RI National Guard's *Guards of Thunder* unit.

Rhode Island General Law mandates the observation of RI Independence Day, officially May 4th, in recognition of Rhode Island's distinction as the first state to declare independence from Great Britain.

Rhode Island General Law also empowers the Governor to authorize the militia to an encampment for the purpose of military drilling and maneuvers. Accordingly, the 14 Rhode Island National Guard historic militia units will conduct their annual encampment this weekend, from Friday evening to Sunday, afternoon.

The formal military formation, to include current Rhode Island Army and Air National Guard units joining their traditional militia brethren on the Camp Fogarty Parade Field, will feature an inspection of the troops by MG Bray and Attorney General Lynch. Additionally, MAJ Michael Moricas, 56th Troop Command, RI Army National Guard, will be presented with the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for valor, for his actions during combat operations while deployed to Afghanistan in 2008.

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On the Internet: Rhode Island National Guard news releases, executive biographies, media contacts and other information are available on the World Wide Web at www.ri.ng.mil

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Rhode Island Militia Encampment and Independence Day Event Schedule of Events

Friday, May 1, 2009

6 p.m. Rhode Island Militia units arrive and set up at Camp Fogarty

Saturday, May 2, 2009

9 a.m. Militia Camp site open to public

1 p.m. Historical Units drill and ceremony demonstration

2 p.m. Rhode Island Independence Day Military Formation

- Welcome and Introduction of Official Party
- Presentation of Colors and National Anthem
- Presentation of Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device to MAJ Michael Moricas
- Inspection of the Formation by Adjutant General and Attorney General
- Remarks and reading of Lincoln Day Essay winners
- Reading of RI Independence Day Proclamation by AG Lynch
- Firing of a 13 gun salute by The Guards of Thunder and their 75mm howitzers

3 p.m. Militia Camp site open to public

7 p.m. Militia Camp closed for day

Sunday, May 3, 2009

9 a.m. Militia Camp site open to public

1 p.m. Militia Camp site closed for day.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORIC MILITIA UNITS

THE ARTILLERY COMPANY OF NEWPORT, Established 1741

KENTISH GUARDS, Established 1774

PAWTUXET RANGERS, Established 1774

THE GLOUCESTER LIGHT INFANTRY, Established 1774

VARNUM CONTINENTALS, Established 1775

BRISTOL TRAIN OF ARTILLERY

RHODE ISLAND MILITIA, Established 1776

FEDERAL BLUES OF WARREN

RHODE ISLAND MILITIA, Established 1798

BATTERY B, 1ST LIGHT ARTILLERY, Established 1861

BATTERY C, 1ST LIGHT ARTILLERY, Established 1861

2ND RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT, Established 1861

LE REGIMENT BOURBONNAIS, Established 1780

THE INDEPENDENT LIGHT DRAGOONS, Established 1795